

# **Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee**

**Tuesday, May 2, 2017**

**Archie R. Cole Middle School Library**

**100 Cedar Avenue**

**East Greenwich, RI 02818**

**6:30 p.m. Executive Session, Mrs. Winters made a motion at 6:32 p.m. to go into executive session for discussion and/or action regarding those items of business exempt from open meetings under Rhode Island General Laws §42-46-4 and §42-46-5 (a) (2) Teacher Negotiations: Discussion of final contract language. Dr. Sun seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.**

**Those in attendance were Ms. Carolyn Mark, Chair; Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters, Vice-Chair; Mr. Matt Plain; Mr. Michael Fain; Dr. Lori McEwen; Dr. Yan Sun; and Mr. Jeff Dronzek (arrived at 6:40 p.m.). Dr. Victor Mercurio, Superintendent; Mrs. Gail Wilcox, Director of Administration; and Mr. Bradley Wilson, Director of Student Services were also in attendance.**

## **7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting**

### **I. Call to Order**

**Ms. Mark called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.**

### **II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

**The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.**

### **III. Recognitions**

- a. Personal Finance**
- b. Global Symposium**
- c. EGHS Science Recognitions**
  - 1. Marjot Foundation**
  - 2. National Youth Science Camp**

**Cole and EGHS students were recognized and congratulated on their achievements in Personal Finance and the Global Symposium. EGHS Science students were also commended on their accomplishments.**

#### **IV. Public Comments**

**There were no public comments.**

#### **V. Approval of Minutes**

- a. Executive for March 28, 2017**

**On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Fain, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the minutes.**

- b. Regular for April 4, 2017**

**Ms. Mark noted an adjustment (footnote) was added to reflect the intention of approving the total FY2018 budget. On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Fain, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the minutes.**

- c. Executive for April 25, 2017**

**On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Fain, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the minutes. Ms. Mark announced a vote was taken during executive session on April 25, 2017 regarding teacher negotiations. The motion passed 7-0.**

#### **VI. Superintendent's Report**

- a. NESDEC**

**Dr. Mercurio has been nominated to the NESDEC board of directors as the R.I. representative. NESDEC serves approximately 300 school districts. Their focus is planning/management; executive searches; professional development; research/development; legal services, and publications. This commitment will involve two telephone meetings and two face-to-face meetings per year. The regional meeting is held in Connecticut in September. Dr. Mercurio was congratulated on his nomination.**

**b. NEASC**

**NEASC has been undergoing a series of initiatives to review and revise the Standards for Accreditation and the Accreditation process. This work is designed to make the Accreditation experience more relevant and valuable for schools. Their goal is to have revised Standards for Accreditation and a new Accreditation process in place by September 2017. In order to implement these changes and provide schools with the time necessary to adjust to them, they have postponed the decennial visit to East Greenwich from 2021 to 2022.**

**c. Town/School website**

**The school is working with the town to revise the website. Mr. Babson and Ms. DiMeglio have been working with Wendy Schmidle and Civic Plus to transition over to the new site. The website will be static for the month of July. The live date for the new site is July 31, 2017. Important messages will be sent weekly through the district list serv.**

**d. Policy #2156 Lunch Credit Limits**

**Dr. Mercurio discussed his comments in the Providence Journal**

regarding district policy that was passed in 2012. Since the passing of the policy, there have not been any issues. Dr. Mercurio will contact Aramark for comparisons on lunch credits (past/present) for discussion at a future meeting.

**e. Announce CBA settlement and pending SC press release**

The School Committee has settled the contract with the East Greenwich Education Association. The School Committee's press release will be posted tomorrow on the district website.

**VII. Action Items**

**a. Appointment-Fiscal Clerk, Central Office-Rosette Figueiredo**

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Dr. Sun, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the appointment.

**b. Resignation- Gail Wilcox, Director of Administration**

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Dronzek, the Committee voted 7-0 to accept the resignation. Mrs. Wilcox was thanked for her service and the Committee wished her well.

**c. Resignation-Brandon Levesque- Student Council Co-Advisor-Cole**

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Dr. McEwen, the Committee voted 7-0 to accept the resignation.

**d. Field Trip- Nat'l Personal Finance Challenge-5/4/-5/6/17 Kansas City, MO- EGHS**

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Fain, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the field trip.

**e. Transportation Policy #2160 – Third Read/Possible Adoption**

Mr. Plain thanked Policy Committee members; Transportation

Subcommittee members; Principals Marcaccio, Vaughn, and Podraza; Dr. Mercurio/administrative council; EG Police Dept., and the School Committee for their valuable input and thoughtfulness.

Mr. Plain reviewed the changes made after the last read. Ms. Mark also thanked everyone involved with drafting this policy. Ms. Mark asked if the request to have students at the bus stop 5 minutes (ahead of the scheduled time) should be in the policy. Dr. Mercurio said it's posted on the website and is noted in the media. The East Greenwich Police department and DPW will work with the Transportation Subcommittee on safety (walkers) and traffic patterns for Meadowbrook. The target date for completed Transportation Request Forms is June 1st. On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Dronzek, the Committee voted 7-0 to adopt Policy #2160 Transportation.

#### **VIII. Advisory/Subcommittee Updates**

##### **a. Transportation Subcommittee**

The Committee met twice last week and reviewed routes with Lesley Davis from Ocean State Transit. The group focused on efficiency for runs for EGHS and Cole. Lesley will also join the meeting on Thursday to assist with elementary runs. Mr. Fuller, OLM Principal, will join the meeting on Thursday to discuss private school transportation. The group plans to meet one more time and then bring a recommendation to the full School Committee on May 16th.

##### **b. Policy Committee**

The Committee met last week. Although there were four items on the agenda, the group was only able to cover revisions to the Policy

## **#2160 Transportation.**

### **c. Health and Wellness Committee**

A special meeting took place on April 26th with a district parent and outside experts to discuss the possibility of using essential oils in the classroom to promote health and wellness. The oils are used to reduce stress, anxiety, and possibly maintain a healthy environment. The next meeting is scheduled for May 16 at 3:30 p.m. at Meadowbrook.

## **IX. Discussion**

### **a. FY2018 budget**

Ms. Mark outlined the budget process. The School Committee had to submit their budget to the Town Manager by April 15th. The town's proposed budget has been posted on their website. The Town Council has not vetted the departmental budgets yet. The town currently has a zero percent increase listed for the school district. This is pending results of the financial audit that is underway. A public budget hearing will be held on May 15, 2017 at Swift Community Center at 7:00 p.m. (time to be confirmed). The public is welcome and urged to attend. A Finance Committee meeting has been scheduled for May 9, 2017 at 8:30 a.m. to review the FY2018 budget presentation.

## **X. School Committee Concerns/Important Matters Pending**

There were no concerns.

## **XI. Adjournment**

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Fain, the Committee voted to adjourn at 8:08 p.m.

**CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO**  
**SECRETARY**